

A Fulfilled Christian Life, Part 7 - Romans 12:10-11 – January 20th, 2013

- Today's teaching will be part seven of a series titled; "A Fulfilled Christian Life."
- Beginning back with verse nine, the Apostle Paul rounded a corner of sorts, going from the "how" of a fulfilled Christian life to the "what."
- Verses 1-8 showed us how we can live a fulfilled life in Christ, and verses 9-21 show us what that fulfilled life in Christ will actually look like.

1. A Genuine Love (Verse 9a)

- We saw the first one in the first part of verse nine where Paul says a fulfilled Christian life will be marked by a sincere and a genuine love.

2. A Hatred of Evil (Verse 9b)

- The second one is in the second part of verse nine where Paul tells us hating evil and clinging to good characterizes a fulfilled Christian life.

3. A Devotion to Others (Verse 10)

(10) Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

- v10 Paul goes onto say that a fulfilled Christian will be devoted to others vis-à-vis putting others above themselves, so as to honor others.
- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that people who are the most unhappy and discontent do the opposite.
- In other words, instead of putting others above themselves, they're always tearing down others because they are insecure in themselves.

- Sadly, the reason they're insecure in themselves, is because they're living for themselves, and as such will never taste from the cup of joy.
- The fact of the matter is, not only are they living selfishly for themselves, they also become proud and arrogant and are full of themselves.
- That fulfilled life that only comes by way of dying to self is foreign to their lives. To die to self, and live for him, is to be devoted to others.

Luke 9:23 NIV Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Mark 8:35 NIV For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

John 12:24-25 NIV I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (25) The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

- The most joy filled Christians you'll ever have the privilege to meet don't have their eyes on them self because they've learned to die to self.
- Perhaps you've heard it said if my eyes are on self I'll be depressed, if they're on others I'll be distressed, if their on the Lord I'll be blessed.
- Suffice it to say, one will know that my life is blessed as a disciple of Jesus, by virtue of how that I love, honor, and am devoted to another.

John 13:35 NIV By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

4. A Zeal Serving the Lord (Verse 11)

(11) Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

- v11 Paul says what will characterizes a fulfilled Christian is that they never lack in zeal, but keep their spiritual fervor in serving the Lord.
- The Apostle Paul uses an interesting word here in his description of spiritual fervor, this because it carries with it the idea of boiling over.
- In other words, I'm so filled with the Holy Spirit to overflowing that my life becomes the torrent of living water, boiling water, I'm boiling over.

- It's usually said of such a one that they're on fire for the Lord, in that they just have a burning desire in their zeal to fervently serve the Lord.
- What comes packaged with this character trait is not only pouring out ones life in their service to the Lord, but a devotion to others as well.
- This works both ways in the sense those who pour their lives out for the Lord and into others derive great joy, satisfaction, and fulfillment.

- Show me a Christian who's on fire for the Lord in their serving of the Lord, and I'll show you a Christian who's living a fulfilled, joy filled life.
- Conversely, show me a Christian who's lukewarm in the Lord, no desire to serve the Lord, and I'll show you a Christian who's miserable.
- Would to God that we would be numbered amongst those few, who are marked by this character trait of zeal, fervently serving the Lord.

- By the way, if you are one who does not possess this kind of fervent zeal for the Lord in your life, please don't be critical of those who do.
- The reason I say this is that often times we're prone to despise those who possess that which we do not, and become hypercritical of them.
- I think of David's zeal, as the ark of the Lord was entering Jerusalem, being so fervent that he was leaping and dancing before the Lord.

2 Samuel 6:16-23 NKJV Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. (17) So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. (18) And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. (19) Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house. (20) Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" (21) So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD. (22) And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor." (23) Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

- It's at this juncture that I'll bring today's sermon to a close, and in so doing submit to you, that we're either like David or his wife Michal.
- Here's how I get there, if I'm fulfilled in life, full of joy in life, it will be evidenced in a David style zeal, whereas if I don't, it will be like Michal.
- In other words, I will be barren, empty, dry in the Christian life, such that there will be no zeal for the Lord, nor will there be joy in the Lord.